Rushil Singh takes a stand on a controversial issue

The law prohibits an individual from taking his own life. Therefore, the idea of the law demanding the execution of a human being is absurd. The death sentence is an uncivilized and obsolete way of dealing with crime. It was employed in the olden times when barbaric and sadistic punishments were still prevalent and non-violence was a distant concept.

We have evolved since then, and know that murder is not the answer. The crimes committed by Saddam Hussein were undoubtedly heinous and revolting but no crime, however barbaric, deserves the death sentence. The death sentence is against the very concept of humanity. Justice can never be delivered by means of violence. A murder is not the remedy to a massacre.

The law cannot stoop to the level of a criminal and perform a similar act. It would set a bad example for the public, especially the youth. Everyone has the right to live and the death penalty is thus a breach of human rights. How can the law promote bloodshed as an answer to injustice, a way of achieving vengeance? 'Tit for tat' people may say, but that is not the way any system should work. Two wrongs don't make a right.

We need to deal with this matter rationally. Instead of awarding Saddam a death sentence the judge could have pondered this matter a little longer and come to a viable conclusion. Perhaps life imprisonment would be harsh enough and give Saddam a chance to think, in silent contrition, about what he did. Putting him to death will not bring the people he brutally murdered back to life. It will only aggravate the situation further; and we all know how volatile the situation in Iraq currently is. For a majority of people in his native country, Saddam was God. The death sentence may just make him a martyr in their eyes. Saddam’s death sentence could stimulate rebellion. Riots could break out. A milder punishment will enable the people to bury the matter and move on. Often, a punishment has graver consequences than the crime itself. Saddam has murdered scores of people. It would be foolish to add to the list by giving him the death penalty. Is it reasonable to award Saddam a death sentence just to provide vengeance to the bereaved parties?

Justice, contrary to popular belief, is not blind and we cannot let this become a case of murder for murder. Violating the right to life of a man for committing a crime does not provide justice. Instead of stubbornly holding on to the past, we need to relent and let the matter rest.

Opinion Poll

Do you support the death sentence on Saddam Hussein?

Yes 60%

No 40%

301 members of the community participated in the poll.

Next Week’s Question: Do you find value in tutorial night-outs?

Why we voted the way we did...

It is an interesting observation that while our cover-story strongly protests the hanging Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi President, nearly 60% of the school community goes against this view. In my opinion, I feel that many of the ‘Yes’ voters are swayed by the Americanised view of ‘Devil’ Saddam. That, just as after the World War, Hitler was portrayed as barbaric and inhuman, the western media has labelled him with similar attributes.

The overwhelming majority, in my opinion, are not ‘for’ the death penalty in itself, but feel that given the atrocities committed by Saddam, he deserves death. I agree with this view but feel that a decision of this kind must be taken after careful consideration (given the sectarian violence and domestic chaos in Iraq) and correct legal procedures must be followed. The convicted should have a fair trial, chance for re-appeal and then abide by the legal verdict. It is perhaps for this reason that a substantial number of us (40%) disagree with the sentence accorded to him.

Editor-in-Chief
REGULARS

NEW FACE
We would like to welcome Mr. Debashish Bhrama as our new Head of Human Resources. We wish him a fruitful tenure here.

QUIZ WHIZZES
In the Inter-House Quiz Competition 2006, the following are the results:
First: Kashmir; Second: Hyderabad; Third: Oberoi and Jaipur; Fifth: Tata. Well done! (A report runs in this issue.)

THE SCHOLAR
Pulkit Baheti has been awarded the Scholar’s Blazer. Congratulations!

MUSIC COLOURS
The following boys have been awarded School Music Colours:

BOOKWORM
Ashish Mitter has been re-appointed Secretary of the Library Council for the forthcoming year. He will be assisted by Vishnukaant Pitty and Saksham Sharda in the workings of the Council. Congratulations!

PUBLICATION APPOINTMENTS
The following are the appointments to the various school publications:
The Echo: Chief Editors: Angad Singh and Gaurav Sood.
The Yearbook: Chief Editors: Eeshan Tiwary and Ankit Duriga. We wish them a fruitful year.

TABLE TENNIS TOPPERS
Pulkit Baheti and Sachin Batra were awarded Full Colours in Table Tennis while Arpit Panjwani and Amit Gupta were awarded Half Colours. Congratulations!

道野道

Should cross-country have been cancelled?
Should be restarted...desperately required. - Uday Singh
Interesting activity, should be re-scheduled, not cancelled!
Shikhar Singh

There should be cross-country because winning cross-country is the tradition of Oberoi House. - Nitish Saini
It has been cancelled? - Saksham Sharda
Very thoughtful....appreciated. - Akshit Batra
A tradition being broken - Chirag Nagia
It’s just great they cancelled it because no one likes to run that much - Ranjai Sodhi
No House feast. - Mehul Mehrotra

Dramatic Act
Bharat Ganju and Shoumitra Shrivastava interview
Bridget Virgo, who helped boys with their preparation for the LAMDA examination

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Tell us a bit about yourself.
Bridget Virgo (BDV): I presently live in London. I was born in East England and lived on a sheep farm. I studied Ancient History and Archaeology from the University of Liverpool. I studied acting in the East 15 Acting School. I teach drama to children and I am also a fitness instructor. I am a professional actor and when I am not involved in drama or fitness, I work in a local pub in London. I am also part of a society which performs plays on a voluntary basis. Sometimes we have to two three performances a day in which we arrive at one venue, set up our things, perform the play, pack up and drive to the next venue.

DSW: Have you done LAMDA yourself?
BDV: I haven’t done LAMDA myself but I have done Guildhall, which is like LAMDA. They are both drama schools in England.

DSW: What were your first impressions about The Doon School?
BDV: I first thought that it would be extremely daunting being a white female in the middle of a school with five hundred boys but when I arrived and was served a burger and chips and had a fork and knife by my side, I had an extreme culture shock. All the boys were extremely hospitable and when I was called ‘ma’am’ I felt like royalty! Everyone was over-willing to help and all the teachers were like English gentlemen!

DSW: What do you think of the Doscos’ language skills?
BDV: I was extremely impressed by the Doscos’ language skills and the fact that they had so much confidence in themselves. Most people in England don’t have the courage to stand up in front of an audience and speak.

DSW: What, according to you is the role of public speaking in one’s life?
BDV: I think it is extremely helpful in building self-confidence and gives you the satisfaction of being able to express yourself. It allows you to connect with a large audience.

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हमें यह कहियेगा
मंजुल सिंह

जब यह हमारी आवाज़ होगी,
तब हमें यह कहियेगा।

जब राग में भी दैनंदिन आवाज़ भी होगी,
तब हमें यह कहियेगा।

हैं होंगी तब नृत्य की आजादी,
तब हमें यह कहियेगा।

अंधेरे जब तक नहीं जाएँगे,
तब हमें यह कहियेगा।

हम अपने सामने होंगे,
जब आप हमें यह कहियेगा।

मैं इंसान हूँ
सुनाम खुलकर

हमारे कीमती बीमा है भी,
अभी मानव नहीं कि मैं अप्सरा हूँ।

कृप्या उसी ओर
नहीं आसमान के होते ही भी
अभी मानव नहीं कि मैं सुलाम! हूँ।

अभी भावभावना
और मुझसे रुहित दिलभावीते
ताकि कीमती,
हम तात्त्विक पर नाचने हुए,
पूर्वो को जोड़कर,
अभी मानव नहीं कि मैं परीक्षण हूँ।

दंगे ये जीवन में,
कभी नहीं होते ही भी,
अभी मानव नहीं कि मैं मानक हूँ।

प्राणों के संग टिकी
और मानव जिलकारियों के संग से,
अभी मानव नहीं कि मैं इन्कार हूँ।

सभी और इसका केंद्र जड़ते
मुझसे होता है मैं उस आग सेँ 
पार का समुह की सहायता।
अभी मानव नहीं कि मैं क्षणें -
मैं इंसान हूँ।

मुकुराती धूप
स्वर्ग जोता

रात के तृप्तकाल के बाद,
अभी सुबह
बालिक की सलाहों से बिकला
सुसज्जण की कुछ किरणों ने इंकार।

अभी बड़ा,
टो जलजल में छिपे टूटे जीलों पर बैठे और पूरी पूरी पूरी
पूरी की कुछ किरणें।

कुछ रोशनी,
कुछ गरमसाहब से लबरेज़ पैरों की पहाड़ी बात
इस तरह बातें-
कि इन्हें कहीं छाया या पहली, मुकुराती धूप।

"chor-pulish"

शब्दावली
धिखालिया
अभी कुछ दिनों पहले की बात है। जब मैं सुबह उठा तो उठा पूरा एक सुनहरा सा दिन था। जोड़ की भांई जिसे नाशा किया और खेलने चला गया? छुट्टियों होने के कारण

दर्पण
तरंग खुलकर

वह लीला है जा कॉम्पॉनीए पुष्ट लोगों को ओँच।
कभी दिखालिया है गरम का सुख,
कभी उष्णा है अबर का दुख।
कितने लोगों के लिए इससे वादा,
या है उसे यह आदरा रात।
क्या है उसके नाम का वाहत,
मानिस उसका दिल है भ्रमण।
आनंद है लोगों की मानसिक,
आनंद है उनकी मनोविनयन।
क्योंकि दर्पण है लीला,
लिखित की जीवन।

एक दिन ओँच बना - "मैं इस पाञ्जी दूर थी होगी सुगंध पहक को देख देखें थे की मैं क्या होगी हारक सुगंध नहीं था।" क्या है उसे मैंने देखा और मनुष्य को धन्य बनाव कर रात है मैं उसे मैंने देखा।
उसे सभी नाम भी देखा और वाहत - "आदर लोगों का कपड़ा हैमें रात है नहीं।" जब मैं उसी के पैर है क्या है नहीं भी आ रहा।
वह कुछ कहा और देखने लगा था नीचे उसे उसे आकर्षण के अनुक्रम की बात करते थे। वह कुछ सांवधान के अंदर भी होता है।
(श्रीमति विश्वेंद्र, विशेषज्ञ के द्वारा से साक्षरता)"
An auspicious day called for a special event, and so the ‘11th day of the 11th month’ saw the hosting of the annual Inter-House Quiz Competition on a balmy Saturday evening. A tide of Doscos grudgingly swept into the MPH, chatting and speculating on the likely outcome. As the lights dimmed and the aimless chatter ceased, the distinguished quizmaster, Mr. John Xavier, ascended the stage to call upon the contestants to take their seats.

The slideshows and sound effects managed to enthral the otherwise easily-bored Doscos, keeping everyone entertained with music clips. ‘Axel F’ by Crazy Frog sounded incomplete to everyone, and a collective ‘Beeng! Beeng!’ was occasionally heard when that clip played.

The first round - ‘Who Am I’, was a Picture Round, featuring famous personalities when they were young. Tony Blair in his hippie avatar, and George Bush as a toddler, were a challenge to identify. H House took off early with a fifteen-point lead. K House shot up with twenty points to their credit in the Sports Round. They maintained their lead in the Literature and History rounds as well. T and H Houses stayed close behind.

The much-awaited Music Round grabbed everyone’s attention. It featured love songs, old and new. But a tepid response from both the audience and contestants proved that Doscos are not a romantic bunch. By the end of the Current Affairs and Science Rounds, K House had taken everyone by storm, sitting pretty with a high score of sixty points, while J, H and O Houses were battling it out for the second position.

The Movie Round was also captivating, displaying clips from movies as recent as Walk The Line and classics like Guns of Navarone. The tenth and final round, the Buzzer Round, was exciting, with Tata House taking a lot of risks. Kashmir House got another four questions right, ending the competition with a final score of 105, far ahead of Kashmir House. G House had taken everyone by storm, sitting pretty with a high score of sixty points, while J, H and O Houses were battling it out for the second position.

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